

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

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R 151640Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6989

INFO AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 392

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GR, BU

SUBJECT: GREEK/BULGARIAN RELATIONS - FM BITSIOS' VISIT  
TO BULGARIA

REFS: SOFIA 0071 AND 0072 AND ATHENS 161

1. SUMMARY: MFA OFFICER-IN-CHARGE OF BULGARIAN AFFAIRS  
CHARACTERIZED FM BITSIOS'S VISIT, JANUARY 8-10, AS UNQUALIFIED  
SUCCESS WHICH TOOK PLACE IN FRAMEWORK OF BILATERAL RELATIONS  
NOTEWORTHY FOR ABSENCE OF PROBLEMS.  
FONMIN BITSIOS TOLD EAGLETON AND ME THE SAME THING. DURING COURSE OF  
VISIT GREEK DELEGATION WAS ALERT FOR EVIDENCE OF SOVIET  
INFLUENCE BUT FOUND NONE IN CONTEXT OF GREEK/BULGARIAN  
RELATIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. GREEK FOREIGN MINISTRY DESK OFFICER FOR BULGARIA  
ALEXANDER VAYENAS IN DEBRIEFING ON FM BITSIOS' THREE-DAY  
VISIT TO BULGARIA CITED COMMUNIQUE (SOFIA 0071) AS  
ACCURATE REFLECTION OF CORDIALITY AND CONSTRUCTIVENESS  
OF VISIT. VAYENAS DESCRIBED GREEK/BULGARIAN RELATIONS AS  
INDEED HARMONIOUS SINCE NO REAL DIFFERENCES EXISTED BETWEEN  
TWO NATIONS AND NUMEROUS POSSIBILITIES IN TRADE, TOURISM,  
CULTURE, ETC. PERMIT GRATER COOPERATION. WHILE NO AGREEMENT  
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WAS SIGNED DURING VISIT EXCEPT FOR RENEWAL OF CULTURAL  
COOPERATION ACCORD, TWO FOREIGN MINISTERS EXPLORED QUESTIONS

OF ROAD TRANSIT THROUGH BULGARIA TO CENTRAL EUROPE FOR GREEK AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS IN EXCHANGE FOR GREEK PORT FACILITIES FOR BULGARIA AND BROADE ECONOMIC COOPERATION. BULGARIANS SET TARGET OF \$100 MILLION IN BILATERAL ANNUAL TRADE WHICH IS NOW AROUND \$20 MILLION AND SUGGESTED FREE EXCHANGE SYSTEM TO REPLACE CURRENT CLEARING ACCOUNT METHOD.

3. IN RESPONSE TO QUERY WHETHER MACEDONIAN ISSUE AROSE, MFA OFFICER SAID FORTUNATELY BULGARIANS DO NOT "PRETEND" THAT GREECE HAS SLAV/MACEDONIAN MINORITY SO THAT ISSUE WHICH CONTINUES TO PLAGUE GREEK/YUGOSLAV RELATIONS DOES NOT ARISE WITH BULGARIA. VAYENAS NOTED GREEK DELEGATION THROUGHOUT VISIT KEPT WATCHFUL EYE FOR EVEN FAINTEST INDICATIONS THAT BULGARIANS WERE RECEIVING "GUIDANCE" FROM USSR ON HANDLING FM BITSIOS' VISIT AND WERE SATISFIED THAT THIS WAS NOT THE CASE. BULGARIANS WENT TO GREAT LENGTH TO DENY PRESS ACCOUNTS OF BULGARIAN DEPENDENCE ON USSR OR THAT BULGARIA WAS DESTINED TO BECOME NEW SOVIET REPUBLIC. MEETINGS CONCLUDED WITH BOTH SIDES AGREEING TO FURTHER VISITS. (PM CARAMANLIS TO VISIT SOFIA AT INDEFINITE FUTURE DATE AND FM MLADENOV ATHENS PROBABLY THIS SPRING.) VAYENAS ADDED THAT VISIT ACCOMPLISHED PRIMARY PURPOSES OF SHORING UP RELATIONS PSYCHOLOGICALLY AND EXPLORING POSSIBILITIES OF IMPROVING BILATERAL ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL RELATIONS.  
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